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To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lostwithiel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1954.

During the year the scheme whereby the Council made use of the staff of St. Austell U.D.C. came into operation with very satisfactory results. The scheme will ensure continuity of supervision and overcome the difficulties of the past five years.

The absence of a sewerage scheme acceptable to the Ministry has continued to hold up development, but it is highly probable that progress will be possible next year.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Watts and other Council Officers for their help.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J.G.S. TURNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	3050.
Population (estimated mid-year)	2060.
Number of Inhabited Houses.	776.
Rateable Value.	£9796.
Product of a Penny Rate.	£39.

				Rate per 1000 Population	
LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	Lostwithiel	England &Wales
Legitimate	7	12			
Illegitimate	1	0	20	9. 7.	
	For comparative purposes rate corrected for age and sex distribution.			10. 6.	15. 2.
STILL BIRTHS				Rate per 1000 Total Births and Stillbirths	
Legitimate	2	0			
Illegitimate	0	0	2	90. 9.	23. 5.
DEATHS				Rate per 1000 Population	
	18	18	36	17. 45.	
	For comparative purposes rate corrected for age and sex distribution.			11. 3.	11. 3.
				Rate per 1000 Total Births	
MATERNAL DEATHS		0	0	0	0. 69.
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 yr of age)				Rate per 100 Live Births	
Legitimate	1	0			
Illegitimate	0	0	1.	50.0.	25. 5.
DEATHS UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGE (due to enteritis and diarrhoea)					
	0	0	0	0.0.	

The following table gives the causes of death in accordance with the International Abbreviated List (1948)

Diseases	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Memingococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	2	-
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	4
18. Coronary disease angina	2	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
20. Other heart disease	6	6
21. Other circulatory disease	-	-
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	-

Diseases	Males	Females
24. Bronchitis.	-	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
34. All other accidents	-	1
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
ALL CAUSES	18	18

The following short table gives the percentage of those dying in the age group indicated.

Age Group		Percentage of deaths Males	Percentage of deaths Females
0	- 1 year	5. 8.	0
1	- 59 years	11. 7.	11.1.
60	- 69 years	23. 5.	16. 6.
70	- 79 years	35. 2.	27. 7.
80	- 89 years	23. 5.	38. 9.
90 plus		0. 0.	5. 5.

The single infant death was due to bronchitis and was preventable.

SECTION A.

Lostwithiel is a quiet country town set in pleasant surroundings in the valley of the Fowey River. The town has many historic associations and has some very well preserved buildings. The only industry of any consequence is the milk depot.

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services

Public Health Office

(1) Medical Officer of Health. J. Turner. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. 1.1. 54. to 31.12.54.

(2) Sanitary Inspector (Part Time) C.H. Watts, M.S.I.A. 1.7.54. to 30.6.54.

Laboratory Facilities. These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. In addition to the supplies of diphtheria prophylacties previously available, supplies of whooping cough vaccine, both by itself, and coupled with that for diphtheria, are available at the Area Health Office, St. Austell and can beobtained by Medical Practitioners on request.

Ambulance Facilities These are provided by the County Council from the Main ambulance station at St. Austell in emergencies, at night, and at weekends, help is given by voluntary staff from St. Austell, St. Blazey or Fowey.

Thanks are due to the Red Cross Society, to St. John's

Ambulance Association, to Mrs. Batchelor, the organiser of the Hospital Car Service, and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provided transport by request.

The following table gives the work carried out in the whole of Number 4 Area, and on a population basis, Lostwithiel was responsible for about one thirtieth of the work done.

		Patients	Miles
Ambulance	St. Austell Area	4737	69529
Utilicons	"	10272	88988
Hospital Car Service		5161	59586
Country Centre Ambulances, Indian Queens, Fowey and St. Blazey.		619	18697

NURSING IN THE HOME There is one District Nurse - Midwife-Health Visitor who is able to cope with all demands.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE The clinic was closed two years ago owing to poor attendance. As the nurse visits regularly in the home the health of the children is well supervised.

HOSPITALS There are no hospitals in the area and patients are sent to St. Austell, Bodmin, Truro and Redruth. Patients with infectious diseases are sent to Truro Isolation Hospital when necessary.

CARE AND AFTER CARE None was provided.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE Thanks are due to Mrs. Liddicoat and to Mrs. Clark, who have administered this service. The establishment is the equivalent in spare time helps of two full time workers. A total of 8 persons were aided of whom none were maternity cases. Many of those helped were old people living alone

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

(a) Water Supply

There are 3 sources of supply the Ford of Maudlin supply in the North East of the Borough consisting of springs which are piped through a 4" main to the town; the Church Park Wood Adit supply which is pumped to St. George's Park Reservoir and the Collebeacon supply which consists of springs piped to the town through a 6" main. The 4" main from Maudlin is badly corroded and would require renewal unless the Fowey River Scheme is brought into operation when this particular supply from Maudlin would be discontinued. The Church Park Wood adit supply falls off in dry weather and would also be discontinued when the Fowey River Scheme comes into operation. The Collebeacon supply feeds the area east of the river and the other two the area to the West.

During the summer it was found that all supplies were grossly contaminated and emergency chlorination plant was installed. This has remained in operation and gives satisfactory results.

(b) Sewerage

The built up area of the town is connected to a piped system of sewers which discharge through several outfalls directly into the tidal portion of the River Fowey below the bridge.

A scheme for re-sewering the whole of the town is at present being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers Messrs. Underwood and Mander of Bristol.

(c) Refuse Disposal

The greater part of the built up area has a weekly collection of refuse, some of the more isolated districts being collected fortnightly. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on a piece of ground South of the town close to the River.

(d) Rodent Control

The Council workman trained to undertake these duties has dealt with all complaints of this nature as and when required.

SECTION D.

HOUSING ACT AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

During the year numerous visits were made on receipt of complaint, several informal notices were served under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act - all of which were complied with.

Three informal notices were served under the Housing Act 1936, all being complied with.

A statutory notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936, was served on the owner of Number 4 Mill Hill, Bridge End, to recondition this property - the Council re-housing the tenant.

A Demolition Order under Section 11 of the Housing Act1936 was served on the owner of "Penleath" Bungalow.

A start was made during the latter half of the year on a preliminary survey of the sub-standard houses in the Borough with a view to considering them for inclusion in the return of the Council's proposals for demolition, asked for in the "Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954" and to be submitted to the Minister before August 31st 1955, included in this figure will be the pre-war Clearance Areas which have not yet been cleared.

SECTION E.

Meat Inspection

Regular inspections have been made of the animals slaughtered by Mr. Langmaid, the meat being of a high standard only small portions of offal being cut down.

Other Foods

At the request of various greengrocers in the Borough a number of canned goods were condemned as unfit for human consumption being blown and leaking - in some cases the contents being badly decomposed.

Milk

Regular visits were made to retailers of milk and their premises and equipment inspected, this task being lightened by the fact that by far the greater proportion of milk sold in the Borough is pasturised and bottled in Daltash, there being no accredited T.T. dealers in the area.

Ice Cream

All registered premises were inspected and found to be satisfactory - most of the Ice Cream being of the pre-packed variety, necessitating the use of a conservator only in the place of retail.

Cafes, Restaurants and Food Preparing Premises

Visits were made where possible to this classof premises and all were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and Other Disease

Notification of the following infectious diseases were received during the year.

Disease	Number of Cases	Rate per 1000Population		
		Lostwithiel		England & Wales
		1953	1954	1954
Pneumonia	2	1. 47.	0. 97.	0. 60.
Scarlet Fever	3	0. 48.	1. 45.	0. 93.
Whooping Cough	1	18. 5.	0. 48.	2. 39.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The following table gives the number of children at 31st December 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January 1940).

Age at 31/12/54 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1954	1 - 4 1953-50	5 - 9 1949-45	10 - 14 1944- 40	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (primary or booster)					
A. 1950 - 54	2	107	132	71	312
B. 1949 or earlier	-	-	83	23	106
C. Estimated mid-year child population.	25	152	143	124	444
Immunity Index.	8.0%	70.5%	92.0%	57. 0%	70.2%

During the year the following immunisations were carried out.

Primary	Diphtheria alone.	6.
	" & Whooping Cough	23.
	Whooping Cough alone.	2.
Booster	Diphtheria alone.	29.
	" & Whooping Cough	9.

Apart from the delay in immunising infants under one year, particularly against Whooping Cough, the immune state is very satisfactory.

Smallpox Vaccination. 17 persons received primary vaccinations and 0 were revaccinated.

Tuberculosis. The number of cases on the register at the endof the year was as follows :-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	6	1	7
Non-Pulmonary	0	0	0

The following new cases and deaths were recorded:-

New Case	Male. Respiratory.	Aged 55 years.
Deaths	Female. Respiratory.	Aged 46 years.
	Male. Respiratory.	Aged 69 years.

During 1954 a scheme was introduced to examine all schoolchildren in their fourteenth year with a view to offering them protection, if necessary, against tuberculous infection. The method of examination was by X-Ray and a simple skin test.

The following results were obtained.

Number X-Rayed 29
No. of significant cases of t.b. found 0

Percentage of children with a positive skin test 12.5%)indicating previous infection).

Number given B.C.G. vaccination. 6.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	9	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	4	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	13	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

There were none.